

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 24 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 4, 17 and 20 have been amended herein. Applicants have also amended paragraph [0037] of the specification to correct minor errors in text. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application as amended herein.

Petition Under 37 C.F.R 1.47(a) filed March 7, 2005

There is an outstanding Petition Under 37 C.F.R 1.47(a) filed March 7, 2005, that has never been addressed. The Petition was inadvertently coded by the United States Patent and Trademark Office as "letter" and not as "Petition." Therefore, please forward the same to Patricia Faison-Ball, Senior Petitions Attorney in the Office of Petitions so that she may consider the outstanding Petition and issue a decision.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to Claims 1 through 4, 17 and 20 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 through 24 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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